

Dr. Donald Elliot King of Ann Arbor, Michigan, has recently been appointed to the division of orthopedics, department of surgery, of the Stanford University School of Medicine, to replace Dr. Leonard W. Ely, who retires from the faculty at the end of the present academic year.

Doctor King received his A. B. degree in 1923 and his M. D. degree in 1927 from Stanford University. He has been a member of the staff of orthopedic surgery at the University of Michigan since 1928.

How the Doctors Help.—Under the above caption the following editorial was printed in the Los Angeles *Evening Herald-Express* of March 15:

"If the average citizen could have sat in with the sectional meeting of the American College of Surgeons, which has just closed a two-day conference in Los Angeles, he (or she) would have gained a profound respect for the men who are seeking, by their lives of study and practice, to help maintain the health of the nation.

"Nearly fifteen hundred surgeons attended the various sessions, and many nationally known scientists addressed them on numerous subjects, all relating to the task of keeping the American people fit.

"Dr. George Crile of Cleveland, Ohio, internationally famed in his profession, revealed that 'among the great achievements of the century has been the discovery of the cause of typhoid fever, of infantile paralysis, of puerperal fever, of yellow fever, and of tuberculosis.' In addition, 'surgery and orthopedics have conquered most of the deformities of children.'

"The meeting in the Shrine Auditorium last night afforded an opportunity to a goodly number of men and women to learn something about medical and surgical science, but naturally that audience was small when compared with the city's population.

"The physician, whether family doctor or noted specialist, deserves the respect and gratitude of every living human being. He never falters in his task, and we who benefit by his labors should be prompt to grant him not only just remuneration for specific work, but love and gratitude for his lifelong devotion to the healing profession."

Clippings from the Daily Press:

Pigs to Be Used in Death Tests.—Pigs, and not dogs, will be the subjects in future experiments of Dr. Robert Cornish to restore life after death.

Doctor Cornish, University of California anatomist, who has succeeded in restoring respiration and circulation for a few hours to two dogs pronounced dead, explained today that dogs have too many friends.

"Hogs more nearly resemble humans in their digestive and circulatory systems and have fewer friends than dogs," he said.

"We will use pigs—they seem friendless.

"The public does not understand that our method of killing dogs for experimentation is no different from that practiced every day in the city pound. We do not believe there will be any protest against experimenting on hogs."

"Court Orders Sterilization.—Sterilization of seventy persons suffering from hereditary diseases was ordered by the new district eugenics court in Hamburg, Germany, on March 13.

"The report said the majority of persons to undergo the operations are doing so at their own request."

"Chicago Amebiasis.—A suit for \$600,000 damages, an outgrowth of the epidemic of amebic dysentery during the World's Fair last summer, has been filed against Dr. Herman Bundesen, City Health Commissioner, and the Congress Hotel, according to an Associated Press dispatch.

"Although the outbreak reportedly was under investigation early in the summer, it did not become public knowledge until November 9, the last week of the exposition."

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of following letter: Names and addresses of "identical twins" requested.

Berkeley, California,

February 10, 1934.

To the Editor:—Human heredity is in many ways of great importance for human welfare, and one way in which it may be most advantageously studied is through the investigation of twins.

There are, as you know, two distinct classes of twins. In one type, called fraternal twins, each individual has developed from a different egg, and such twins do not resemble each other more closely than brothers and sisters usually do. They may or may not be of the same sex. In the other type, known as identical twins, both individuals develop from a single egg. They are, therefore, always of the same sex, strikingly alike in appearance, eye color, hair color, body configurations, and many other traits.

Any pair of identical twins has a common organic inheritance, and this condition is attested by their close resemblance. Their differences must be due to environment. Hence they afford an unusual opportunity for distinguishing those traits handed on through the germ from those produced by the surroundings.

We are especially desirous of obtaining data on tuberculosis and cancer because of the importance of knowledge of the possible rôle of heredity in these diseases. We should like also to obtain any data on insanity or other nervous disorders or defects in identical twins, or in fact any peculiar pathological conditions which may occur in twins of this type.

If in your practice you may have come in touch with pairs of adult like-sexed twins whom you think may be identical, and can give us their names and addresses, it will be of great assistance. Other points of interest and suggestions for widening the scope of this study will be appreciated. Its success demands a mass of evidence and careful detail.

Any information which we receive either from you or the twins in question, will be used only in the presentation of mass statistics. Names are for my own use only, in order that I may get in touch with said twins.

Thanking you for your part in this work, I am

Sincerely yours,

S. J. HOLMES.

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CALIFORNIA HEALTH INSURANCE RACKETS

Reference to the Alameda County exposé of certain health insurance rackets was made in the March *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, pages 196 and 216. Also in this issue, page 262.

What has been accomplished in Alameda County may be duplicated in other cities where similar or worse conditions exist. The following excerpts, taken from newspaper stories which have been printed in the last two months make interesting and instructive reading, and indicate along what lines steps to remedy some of these evils may be taken.

Excerpts follow:

From the San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, February 4, 1934:

DEMAND STATE OUST HEALTH RACKETS

Demanding a statewide clean-up of "health insurance" rackets, Joseph Laney, foreman of the Alameda County grand jury, today appealed to Governor Rolph for state aid in conducting an investigation.

With nineteen men already under indictment, Laney charged that E. Forrest Mitchell, California insurance commissioner, has "dodged all attempts to have him clean up this situation."

Earl Warren, district attorney of Alameda County, heaped more fire on the commissioner, declaring that